they been meant for hunting, the arrow head had been firmly secured so the arrow might be recovered entire. Many of their arrow heads were made of hard wood fastened on cane shafts. During this ceremonial the women featered the arrows, lashing two or three feathers onto the shaft with sinew. The measurement of each arrow and bow was the length and strength of the arm of the warrior who was to do the shooting." ([27]"Their copper came from the rich copper district in Polk County, east Tennessee. James H. Malone, op. cit. p33, The Chickasaw Nation.[28]. Arrow, etc., information obtained from Handbook of American Indian, Bulletin 30, Part 1, p90.")

The Plains Indian, until his subjection by government troops, was a supreme individualist, and his civilization was that of the European many hundreds of years ago. The Plains Indian never discovered the secret of smelting iron. The steel points which he used in the last years of his supremacy have been interesting to me for the reason that they mark a transition between an ancient civilization and the more highly developed one of the white invader. The Indian took from the intruder a new element and fashioned from it a weapon with which to combat him. Perhaps the first steel and iron artifacts used by native tribes were lost by Coronado during his search for the Seven Cities of Cibola since he is supposed by many historians to have penetrated the Panhandle of Oklahoma. The thought occurs that the native would first try to use the weapon in its original state. That is, if it were a lance he might mount it on a new shaft but he would not try to rework the original weapon into something different. After the early expeditions, contacts with Europeans would have become more numerous. The Spaniards set up an empire in the Southwest; the French were trading and trapping on the Great Plains and the Mississippi; and the English and Scottish traders were going beyond the frontiers. Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River and located in what is now Bent County, Colorado, was established in 1826. The Southern branch of the Santa Fe trail was surveyed in 1827.

Guessing, I would say that steel points did not become common to this area until sometime after 1840. By that time the Indian and the trader or trapper would have come in contact with each other many times. The Indian would have learned to work steel.

During the past three or four years I have found four metal points. Three were of steel or iron; the other was of copper. Two were found on the old Easterwood Ranch, northwest of Guymon in an extensive camp site on Goff Creek. These points are about the same size - 1 3/4 inches in length, although the base of one has been destroyed. I found the largest point in my collection (3 7/8 inches in length), on the barren side of a hill in the same locality. The three points above mentioned were found on cultivated land which had eroded to the hard pan. The copper point was found near the Hansford County line, south of Guymon, on the sod. The base or shank of this point is also missing. At the present time I have nineteen metal points, all of which